



## NSSEO Governing Board Brief

August 7, 2019

### NSSEO August Shining Stars: NSSEO Maintenance Team



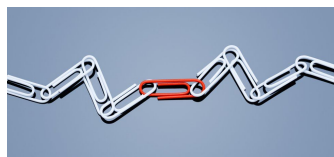
This month's Shining Stars is a team of incredibly committed individuals who not only work diligently to keep our buildings and facilities running smoothly throughout the school year, but who have played a significant role this summer. They worked around the clock in supporting, moving and assisting in the complex transition of the Kirk and Miner School program redesign. Under the dedicated leadership of Mike Browning, NSSEO Building and Grounds Supervisor, this month we recognize the outstanding contributions of:

- Michael Browning, NSSEO Buildings & Grounds Supervisor
- Mark Hildebrandt, Tim Martin, and Cruz Rios, Kirk School;
- John DeGroot and Mark Hildebrandt, Miner School;
- Nick Larsen and Gani Myftari, Timber Ridge School;
- Eddie Kryger Rich Lacki, and Ricky Youngs, NSSEO Administration Center;
- Bob Rossdeutscher, Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center

Summer is always an especially busy time across NSSEO for our maintenance team, and this year they have gone above and beyond with many special projects. While much of the planning and preparation for the new school year begins in the spring, most building projects cannot happen until after ESY is finished in each building. NSSEO is very proud of its maintenance/custodial team. The physical environment of school buildings and school grounds is a key factor in the overall health and safety of students, staff, and visitors. A positive learning environment is able to be cultivated and maintained due to their vital and integral role.

NSSEO truly appreciates the dedication, the willingness to go above and beyond and the great attitude and commitment to raise to whatever challenge comes their way. Across the buildings, our maintenance team ensured that our buildings were ready to welcome our students on August 15th.

### National and State Update: Dr. Judy Hackett



Dr. Judy Hackett shared out information from this summer which included Board meetings she is engaged in at the national and state levels for superintendent organizations and several important discussions around special education funding.

In all of the meetings attended by Dr. Hackett, a theme emerged around special education funding, the unfulfilled promise Congress included in the IDEA law over 40 years ago, and the compounding impact on local districts across the country.

At the state level, the IASA multi-day board meeting included much discussion around the evidence-based funding model, what is and isn't impacted and/or included in it and the assertive movement of many bills under a new administration. Work continues across various organizations to advocate for the needs of students with more significant and higher cost needs to advance their educational growth and expand life opportunities.

There are several upcoming meetings and legislative focus for our organizations that will include advanced efforts to revise processes and secure increased funding amounts that support our guiding principles around building supports to address individual student needs.

### New Staff Orientation:



August 6th kicked off New Staff Orientation week where over 40 staff and administrators engaged in celebratory and introductory New Staff Orientation activities, as well as team building activities at Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center. Newly licensed staff members had the opportunity to meet with their mentors and began to build integral peer relationships. The remainder of the week was dedicated to professional learning in the various programs, departments, and buildings. The end of the week culminated with an initial training in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NVC) for all new staff. Overall, we are excited to welcome our newest NSSEO staff and prepare them for their roles in our NSSEO community.

## New Partners in Member Districts:

NSSEO is excited to welcome four new partners from our member districts! These leaders in special education play an important role in enhancing our efforts to provide valuable high quality programs and services to our districts and families.

Jodi Mergerle - District 26



Peg Lasiewicki - District 25



Kim Cline - District 21



Elizabeth deGruy - District 59



## Professional Learning 2019-2020:

NSSEO provides high-quality professional development programs grounded in research and designed to facilitate changes in educator practices that will result in improved learning. These learning opportunities are open to all NSSEO staff and our member districts. Ms. Stacy Colgan highlighted just a few of the many opportunities that await our staff this year. Executive Functioning, Facilitated IEP Training, a Mental Health Series, and the Safe and Civil Schools Cohort are a few important and popular events taking place this fall. To view NSSEO's Professional Learning Calendar please click on this [link](#).

## Kirk/Miner Redesign Facility Update:

Facility Updates were provided and the following projects were highlighted.

- An update on the progress on the Miner School Accessible/Inclusive Playground included the notification that NSSEO is one of the recipients of a state-wide Community Economic Development grant and will be receiving \$410,000 for the playground project! Additionally, NSSEO has been in conversations with the Arlington Heights Park District, School District 25, and NWSRA as potential partners in a larger joint project.
- Miner School Greenhouse renovations are underway with new durable roofing and walls funded through the NSSEO Foundation.
- Building enhancements included new flexible furniture throughout Kirk and Miner Schools along with and

- Sensory upgrades funded through the NSSEO Foundation include the design of a new sensory hallway at Miner School and A Sensory Cart for use throughout Kirk School.
- **Upcoming NSSEO Events:**

8/15	First day of student attendance for NSSEO Schools
9/2	Labor Day - No School
9/3	NSSEO Board Meeting @ 7pm
9/11	Kirk Secondary Campus Open House
9/12	NSSEO Staff Wellness Event @ Tobler-PATHS Field from 4:00 to 6:00pm

### **Making a Difference:**

NSSEO is continually looking for ways to expand partnerships with parents, district and community leaders and legislators to join together as a community committed to deepening understanding and making a positive impact for NSSEO students and families. To learn more about how to make a difference visit us at <http://www.nsseo.org/MAKEADIFFERENCE/> as well as on our social media platforms:

Twitter	@NSSEO_org
Facebook	@NSSEO
Instagram	NSSEO_org